



**COMBINED DECLARATION AND
POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION**

Attorney Docket No.

D41.12-0001

SPECIFICATION AND INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

As a below named inventor(s), I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed, and for which a patent is sought, on the invention entitled SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COMPUTERS the specification of which.

(check one) is attached hereto.

Was filed on _____ as Appln. Serial No. _____

X and as amended herewith.

X was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/NL00/00033 filed on January 17, 2000 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 USC § 119)

I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Priority Claimed
<u>ECT/NL00/00033</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>17 January 2000</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>1011046</u>	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>15 January 1999</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 USC § 120)

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below. Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Appln. Ser. No.	U.S. Serial No. (if any under PCT)	Filing Date	Status
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 371		Attorney Docket No. D41.12-0001
		U.S. Application No. 08/089302
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/NL00/00033	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 17 January 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 15 January 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COMPUTERS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Johannes Gerardus Hendricus Terwindt Robert Poulus Alexander Meijers		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (20) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of the 19th month from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in English 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendment to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 372(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An (unexecuted) oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 37(c)(5)). Items 11. to 17. Below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and .198. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Five (5)</u> sheets of drawings. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract typed on a separate page.		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/889302		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NL00/00033		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER D41.12-0001	
20. [X] The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(A)(1)-(5)): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$860.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)\$690.00 No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$710.00 Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$ 100.00				<u>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</u>	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$860	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$0	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	7 - 20 =	0	X 18	\$0	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	X 80	\$0	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$0	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$860	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0	
SUBTOTAL =				\$0	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f))				\$0	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$860	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property.				\$0	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$860	
				Amount to be:	
				refunded \$	
				charged \$	

- a. ☒ A charge authorization PTO-2038 in the amount of \$860.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **23-1123** in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **23-1123**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 C.F.R. 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (1.37(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

Send all correspondence to:

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3319

Signature
Steven M. Kochler
Reg. No. 36,188



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Johannes Gerardus Hendricus
Terwindt

Appln. No.: 09/889,302

Filed : July 13, 2001

For : SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A
CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE
COMPUTERS

Docket No.: D41.12-0001

Group Art Unit:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS

30 DAY OF October, 2001.

PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action, it is respectfully
requested that the following amendments be made.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 1, please insert:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a national stage filing and claims
priority of International application PCT/NL00/00033, filed January
17, 2000 and published in English.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : Johannes Gerardus Hendricus Terwindt	
Filed : Herewith	Group Art Unit:
For : SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COMPUTERS	Examiner:
Docket No.: D41.12-0001	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

EL 844348649US

Express Mail No.

Date of Deposit: July 13, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to entry into the U.S., it is respectfully requested
that the following amendments be made.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 1, please insert new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of International
application PCT/NL00/00033, filed January 17, 2000 and published in
English.

On page 1, line 1, please insert new section heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a system for providing a
connection between a user computer and a server which are connected
to a network, wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on

the user computer, in which dial-up data of an ISP are configured, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and wherein a browser programme is available in the computer.

On page 2, line 1, please insert new section heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to provide a system of the kind referred to in the introduction wherein the switching from a connection in accordance with the user-configured dial-up data can take place in several ways, in particular when the user is offline.

On page 2, line 28, please insert new section heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to the drawing, which is a very schematic representation of an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

On page 3, line 6, please insert new section heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENT

A large number of user computers to PC's 1 are connected to the Internet 4 (schematically indicated) via various internet service providers (ISP's) 3, 5, 8 and 9. Furthermore, websites 7, 11 are placed on the Internet by website operators via servers 6, 10, which websites can be visited by the PC's 1. It is noted that the term website as used herein is understood to include all forms of offering information on the Internet or an intranet. The website may for example be a so-called web portal. In Figure 2 it is indicated that ISP 9 makes a website 11 available via a web server 10. Only a few PC's, ISP's and web servers are shown in the drawing.

202010-2065880

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for providing a connection between a user computer and a server which are connected to a network, in particular the Internet, wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer, in which dial-up data of an ISP are configured, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and wherein a browser programme is available in the computer, wherein a switching programme is available in the computer, which switching programme is capable of making a connection with a specific server by configuring dial-up data including a specific telephone number of the server in question in the dial-up connection and starting the browser programme once the connection with said server has been made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address from said specific server or from another server via the browser programme.

2.(Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the switching programme displays a navigator bar on a monitor of the computer, showing one or more buttons of websites, wherein the switching programme can be started by a user by clicking on the button of the navigator bar, wherein the switching programme uses a switch file associated with the selected button for providing the connection, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address.

3. (Amended) A system in accordance with the preamble of claim 1, wherein a server sends an e-mail message including a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address, wherein the switching programme is started by opening the e-mail message or an attachment thereto, and wherein the switching programme is capable

of making a connection by configuring dial-up data comprising a specific telephone number of the server received via the e-mail message in the dial-up connection and of starting the browser programme once the connection with the network is made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address of the server via the browser programme.

4. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein a carrier is used, on which there is stored a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address, which switching programme is capable of making a connection by configuring dial-up data comprising a specific telephone number of the carrier which are stored on the carrier in the dial-up connection and of starting the browser programme once the connection with the network is made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address of the server via the browser programme.

5. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the switching programme makes a connection with a specific URL address in the background when a connection with the network exists, and downloads new switch files containing dial-up data and URL addresses via said URL address, wherein at least some of the new switch files are displayed as buttons in the navigator bar.

7 (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the switching programme comprises a number of back-up telephone numbers, which are used successively by the computer when a connection cannot be made via the first telephone number.

202010-040600

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the fees for the application.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Steven M. Koehler, Reg.No. 36,188
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SMK:jmb

2025-01-20 10:00:00

MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

On page 1, line 1, please insert new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority of International application PCT/NLC0/00033, filed January 17, 2000 and published in English.

On page 1, line 1, please insert new section heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a system for providing a connection between a user computer and a server which are connected to a network, wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer, in which dial-up data of an ISP are configured, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and wherein a browser programme is available in the computer.

On page 2, line 1, please insert new section heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to provide a system of the kind referred to in the introduction wherein the switching from a connection in accordance with the user-configured dial-up data can take place in several ways, in particular when the user is offline.

On page 2, line 28, please insert new section heading:

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The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to the drawing, which is a very schematic representation of an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENT

A large number of user computers to PC's 1 are connected to the Internet 4 (schematically indicated) via various internet service providers (ISP's) 3, 5, 8 and 9. Furthermore, websites 7, 11 are placed on the Internet by website operators via servers 6, 10, which websites can be visited by the PC's 1. It is noted that the term website as used herein is understood to include all forms of offering information on the Internet or an intranet. The website may for example be a so-called web portal. In Figure 2 it is indicated that ISP 9 makes a website 11 available via a web server 10. Only a few PC's, ISP's and web servers are shown in the drawing.

204070-20E6036D

MARKED-UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A system for providing a connection between a user computer and a server which are connected to a network, in particular the Internet, wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer, in which dial-up data of an ISP are configured, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and wherein a browser programme is available in the computer, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a switching programme is available in the computer, which switching programme is capable of making a connection with a specific server by configuring dial-up data including a specific telephone number of the server in question in the dial-up connection and starting the browser programme once the connection with said server has been made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address from said specific server or from another server via the browser programme.

2. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the switching programme displays a navigator bar on ~~the~~a monitor of the computer, showing one or more buttons of websites, wherein the switching programme can be started by a user by clicking on the button of the navigator bar, wherein the switching programme uses a switch file associated with the selected button for providing the connection, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address.

3. (Amended) A system in accordance with the preamble of claim 1 ~~or claim 1 or 2~~, wherein a server sends an e-mail message including a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address, wherein the switching programme is started by opening the e-mail message or an attachment thereto, and wherein the switching programme is capable of making a connection by configuring dial-up data comprising a specific telephone number of the server received via the e-

4. (Amended) A system in accordance with ~~the preamble of~~ claim 1 ~~or claim 1, 2 or 3~~, wherein a carrier is used, on which there is stored a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address, which switching programme is capable of making a connection by configuring dial-up data comprising a specific telephone number of the carrier which are stored on the carrier in the dial-up connection and of starting the browser programme once the connection with the network is made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address of the server via the browser programme.

7 ~~(Amended)~~ A system according to ~~any one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, wherein the switching programme comprises a number of
back-up telephone numbers, which are used successively by the computer
when a connection cannot be made via the first telephone number.

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H04L 29/06, G06F 17/30, H04L 12/14	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/42756
		(43) International Publication Date: 20 July 2000 (20.07.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL00/00033

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(30) Priority Data:
1011046 15 January 1999 (15.01.99) NL

(71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: TERWINDT, Johannes, Gerardus, Hendricus [NL/NL]; Burgemeester Van Der Voort Van Zijplaan 6, NL-3571 VW Utrecht (NL). POULUS, Robert [NL/NL]; Bachstraat 59, NL-3281 VA Numansdorp (NL). MEIJERS, Alexander [NL/NL]; Bethlehemstraat 24 B, NL-3061 GB Rotterdam (NL).

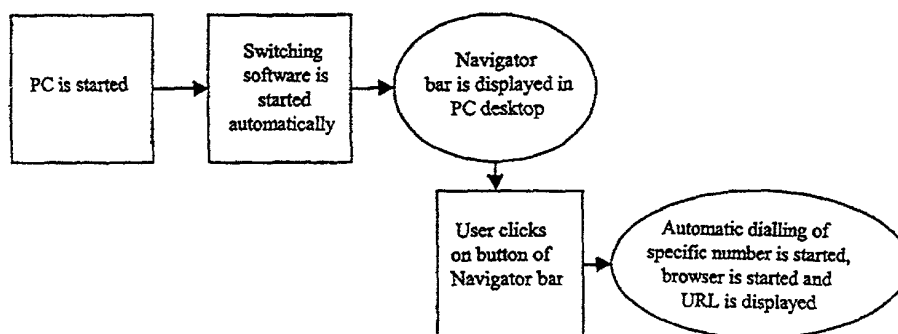
(74) Agent: DE VRIES & METMAN B.V.; Overschiestraat 180, NL-1062 XK Amsterdam (NL).

(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published

*With international search report.**Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.**In English translation (filed in Dutch).*

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COMPUTERS



(57) Abstract

A system for providing a connection between a user computer and a server which are connected to a network, in particular the Internet. An external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer, in which dial-up data of an ISP are programmed, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data. A browser programme is available in the computer. Further a switching programme is available in the computer, which switching programme is capable of making a connection with a specific server by configuring dial-up data including a specific telephone number of the server in question in the dial-up connection and starting the browser programme once the connection with said server is made, wherein the switching programme connects to URL address from the specific server or from another server via the browser programme.

28. 03. 2001

(86)

WO3092-dv/jdh

~~System~~ ^{Method} for providing a connection between two or more computers

The invention relates to a ~~system~~ ^{method} for providing a connection between a user computer and a server which are connected to a network ^{according to the preamble of claim 1.} ~~wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer, in which dial-up data of an~~
5 ~~ISP are configured, by means of which dial-up data the user computer is capable of making a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and wherein a browser programme is available in the computer.~~

10 It is known that the user of a PC can surf the World Wide Web via a connection to the Internet, using a suitable browser programme, whereby various websites can be visited. Generally the user will have connected a modem to his PC and have installed a so-called dial-up connection, wherein the data
15 of the internet service provider (ISP) are stored in the settings of said dial-up connection. If a company wishes to operate a website commercially, it is at the moment usual for a visitor of this website to have to go through a credit card registration procedure, whilst the operator of the website has to install the required software.

20 WO9917512 discloses a system which uses software which is downloaded into the PC of a visitor of a website when he clicks on a button on a web page. Said software installs a completely new dial-up connection on the PC, in which a special access telephone number is stored. Then said software will set
25 up a new connection between the user's PC and the operator's server via said new dial-up connection. The automatic installation of a new dial-up connection easily leads to errors, which result in failure to make the connection or in the user's computer to lock-up. Another limitation of this
30 prior art system is that it is only possible to switch from the connection that has been made by means of the user-configured dial-up data to a new connection if the user first visits a particular website, that is, when the user is online.

ART 34 AMDT

Insertion page 1a

Patents abstracts of Japan, vol. 1998, no. 12, JP 10 185596 discloses a system comprising a GPS signal processing section and a memory with access point data to be used by the system to make a connection to the internet through a radio telephone section. To set up a link, access point data is retrieved from the memory in accordance with the current position as determined through the GPS signal processing section.

FR-A-2 737 797 discloses an electronic business card and a system, wherein the electronic business card comprises data to be used by the system to set up a connection with a further system through a communication network.

AMENDED SHEET

202010-205886D

insert
page 1a

ART 34 AMBT

The object of the invention is to provide a ^{method} ~~system~~ of the kind referred to in the introduction wherein the switching from a connection in accordance with the user-configured dial-up data can take place in several ways, in particular when the user is offline.

According to the invention, in order to accomplish that objective, a ^{method} ~~system~~ of the kind referred to in the introduction is used, ^{having the characterizing features of claim 1.} ~~wherein a switching programme is~~ available in the computer, which switching programme is capable of making a connection with a specific server by configuring dial-up data including a specific telephone number of the server in question in the dial-up connection and starting the browser programme once the connection with said server has been made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address from said specific server or from another server via the ~~browser programme.~~

According to the invention, advantageous use is made of the existing dial-up connection which the user has installed on the computer, wherein the switching programme is capable of making a connection when a connection to the network is not available, using dial-up data other than those that have been configured by the user. A service provider can draw the users' attention to websites which are attractive to the users by regularly supplying the users with switch files which provide new connections with websites.

Advantageous embodiments of the ^{method} ~~system~~ according to the invention are defined in the subclaims.

The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to the drawing, which is a very schematic representation of an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1 very schematically shows the Internet with a number of user computers and servers, wherein an embodiment of the ^{method} ~~system~~ according to the invention is used, wherein a usual connection between a user computer and the Internet is available.

Figure 2 is a representation of the Internet similar to Figure 1, wherein the ^{method} ~~system~~ according to the invention has made a new connection between a user computer and a specific

server.

Figure 3 shows the screen of a user computer, wherein the ~~system~~^{method} of Figure 1 is used.

Figures 4 and 5 each show a diagram to explain the operation of the ~~system~~^{method} according to Figure 1.

A large number of user computers or PC's 1 are connected to the Internet 4 (schematically indicated) via various internet service providers (ISP's) 3, 5, 8 and 9. Furthermore, websites 7, 11 are placed on the Internet by website operators via servers 6, 10, which websites can be visited by the PC's 1. It is noted that the term website as used herein is understood to include all forms of offering information on the Internet or an intranet. The website may for example be a so-called web portal. In Figure 2 it is indicated that ISP 9 makes a website 11 available via a web server 10. Only a few PC's, ISP's and web servers are shown in the drawing.

When a PC 1 wishes to gain access to the Internet 4, the user will install a browser programme and a so-called dial-up connection on his PC. It is not that the term "dial-up connection" is used to indicate a programme known per se, which controls the modem that is connected to PC 1. The dial-up connection includes the dial-up data or settings which are required to gain access to the Internet via ISP 3. One of the data that are used for this purpose is a, usually local, telephone number, by means of which a connection can be made with the server 3 of the ISP.

A switching programme comprising one or more switch files is installed on PC 1 with a view to using the system according to the invention. A switch file contains dial-up data, by means of which the switching programme is capable of making a connection with a specific server 9 via a particular telephone number. Said dial-up data are configured in the dial-up connection by the switching programme. When the user starts the switching programme, the programme makes a connection with server 9 and connects to the URL address of a specific website which is included in the switching programme. Once a connection with server 9 is made, the user-configured dial-up data are

restored.

The switching programme displays the websites that can be chosen on the desktop of the PC in the form of a navigator bar comprising buttons, wherein each button represents a particular website. Furthermore, various dial-up data of various servers may be associated with the various buttons. An example of a navigator bar is indicated at 12 in Figure 3, which navigator bar includes a few buttons 13. The website 7, 11 associated with a button 13 can be indicated by a name or an illustration or the like displayed near the button. By clicking on a button 13, the switching programme is started using the switch file associated with said button and a connection with a specific website is made via a particular telephone number. The telephone number is for example a payment telephone number, via which the charges for visiting the website or for receiving certain information from the website are settled. The switching programme can be started automatically when the PC 1 is started up, so that the navigator bar 12 will be displayed on the desktop. The operation of the switching programme is schematically shown in Figure 4.

Alternatively, the switch file may form part of an e-mail message addressed to the user. In said e-mail message, the user is for example informed about the possibility of perusing certain information on a service provider's website. By clicking on a part of the e-mail message or on an attachment, the switching programme containing the data of this switch file is activated and the switching programme makes the desired connection with the website designated by the URL address in the above-described manner via the associated telephone number. In the case of users who have not installed the switching programme on their PC 1 before yet, the e-mail message may also contain said programme in the form of an attachment. The e-mail message may include the URL address from which the switching programme can be downloaded. The operation of the system described herein, wherein use is made of an e-mail message, is schematically shown in Figure 4.

In another application of the invention, the switching programme and one or more switch files may be stored on a

carrier, such as a CD. The switching programme is capable of installing the navigator bar on the desktop. Said CD may also include information, a game etc., which can only be used when a key is available. Said key can be retrieved from a server by
5 reading the switch file. The PC makes the connection in the above-described manner, with payment again being guaranteed via the telephone number.

In all cases the switching programme is so configured that while the user of PC 1 is perusing the contents of the
10 website of the URL address contained in the switch file, the switching programme makes a connection with a predetermined URL address in the background so as to automatically download new switch files containing new URL addresses and possibly new telephone numbers. As soon as the user has terminated the
15 online session, the switching programme automatically adapts the navigator bar 12 by displaying buttons relating to the new websites therein. When an ordinary connection with the Internet 4 exists, with a random website being visited, the switching programme is also capable of seeking contact with the
20 predetermined URL address in the background for the purpose of downloading new switch files.

When an Internet connection exists, it is also possible to have the switching programme check whether an update of the switching programme is available, of course. If
25 this is the case, the update will be downloaded and installed.

Furthermore it is possible for the system to download other messages, for example a video presentation, from said predetermined URL address to the user's PC 1. These messages can be displayed on the user's desktop in any desired manner.
30 The message, for example the video presentation, may include a button, which, when clicked on, will start the switching programme so as to make a connection with a website, from which further information can be obtained.

When the user visits a website 7, 11 with PC 1, at
35 which website information can be perused against payment, the system described herein can be used for making a connection via a particular payment telephone number. The user clicks on an icon, thus indicating that he wishes to make use of the

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they cannot be perused by third parties. The software installed on PC 1 contains the right key for decoding the received switch file.

5 A received switch file, which contains the telephone number which must be used to make a connection by means of the switching programme, may include one or more telephone numbers which the switching programme must use when it is not possible to make a connection via the first number.

10 It will be apparent that the system described herein makes advantageous use of the existing dial-up connection which the user has installed on the computer, wherein the switch programme is capable of making a connection if no connection with the network exists, using dial-up data other than those configured by the user. A service provider can draw the users' 15 attention to websites that are attractive to them by regularly supplying the users with switch files which provide new connections with websites. The system furthermore makes it possible to provide a connection between a PC 1 and a service provider's website via a connection selected by the service 20 provider, so that the service provider can control traffic. In particular when information is made available against payment, this has the advantage that the service provider knows exactly via which channel the web pages are consulted, so that adequate protection is possible. The system switches the PC which first 25 makes contact with the website which is accessible via the Internet from the usual Internet connection over to an intranet or extranet connection, and vice versa. Since the system described herein uses the modem and dial-up settings which the user has configured on his PC, it is not necessary to set up a 30 new dial-up connection. Thus the correct operation of the system is ensured and the user of the PC is not burdened with unnecessary new settings on his PC.

35 The system described herein can furthermore be used advantageously in the following manner. When a user of a PC, in particular of the notebook type or the like, is abroad and makes a connection with the Internet via his usual internet service provider, he will have to programme the international dialling code of the country where he is located at that moment

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into his dial-up connection. When a switch file is downloaded,
the software will check the existing modem setting and
establish by means of the international dialling code which
country the user is in. The software will then input a dial-up
5 number into the switch file, via which a connection with the
Internet can be made in the country in question. Such an
application is for example important for a multinational. When
an employee abroad makes a connection with the company's
intranet via his ISP, it is possible in this manner to make a
10 connection with the company's own intranet via a local dial-up
number.

It is noted that the system according to the invention
is not only suitable for obtaining information against payment.
As already indicated before, the system also makes it possible
15 to make connections via desired channels.

The invention is not restricted to the above-described
embodiments, which can be varied in several ways without
departing from the scope of the claims.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

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ART 34 AMDT

1. A method for providing a connection between a user computer (1) and a server (6,9,10) which are connected to a network, in particular the Internet (4), wherein an external dial-up connection is installed on the user computer (1), in which dial-up data of an ISP (3,5,8,9) are configured, the method comprising using the dial-up data to make a connection with the Internet via a telephone number forming part of the dial-up data, and using a browser programme available in the user computer, characterized by using a switching programme for configuring dial-up data including a specific telephone number of a specific server in the dial-up connection, making a connection with the specific server and starting the browser programme once the connection with said server has been made, wherein the switching programme connects to a URL address from said specific server or from another server via the browser programme.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the switching programme displays a navigator bar (12) on the monitor of the computer, showing one or more buttons (13) of websites, wherein the switching programme can be started by a user by clicking on the button of the navigator bar, wherein the switching programme uses a switch file associated with the selected button for configuring the dial-up connection to make the connection, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a server (6,9,10) sends an e-mail message to a user computer (1), said e-mail message including a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL address, wherein the switching programme is started by opening the e-mail message or an attachment thereto.

4. Method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising providing a data carrier with a switching programme and/or a switch file intended for the switching programme, which switch file contains dial-up data of a server and an URL

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ART 34 AMDT

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address.

5. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the switching programme makes a connection with a specific URL address in the background when a connection with the network exists, and downloads new switch files containing dial-up data and URL addresses via said URL address, wherein at least some of the new switch files are displayed as buttons in the navigator bar.

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the switching programme downloads a video presentation from a URL address, which video presentation comprises a switch file, which starts the switching programme when a button in said presentation is clicked on so as to make a connection by means of data from said switch file.

7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the switching programme comprises a number of back-up telephone numbers, which are used successively by the computer when a connection cannot be made via the first telephone number.

8. Computer program comprising program code means for performing all the steps of anyone of the preceding claims when the program is run on a computer.

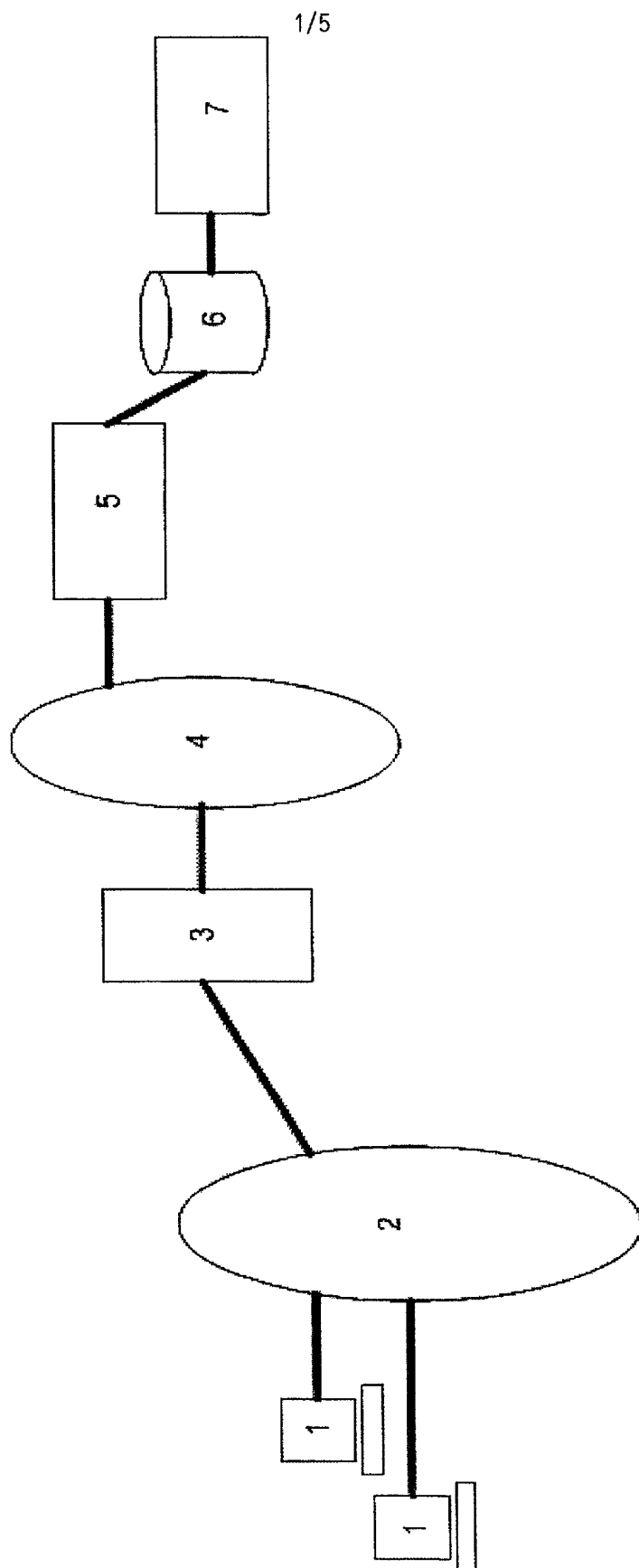


Fig. 1

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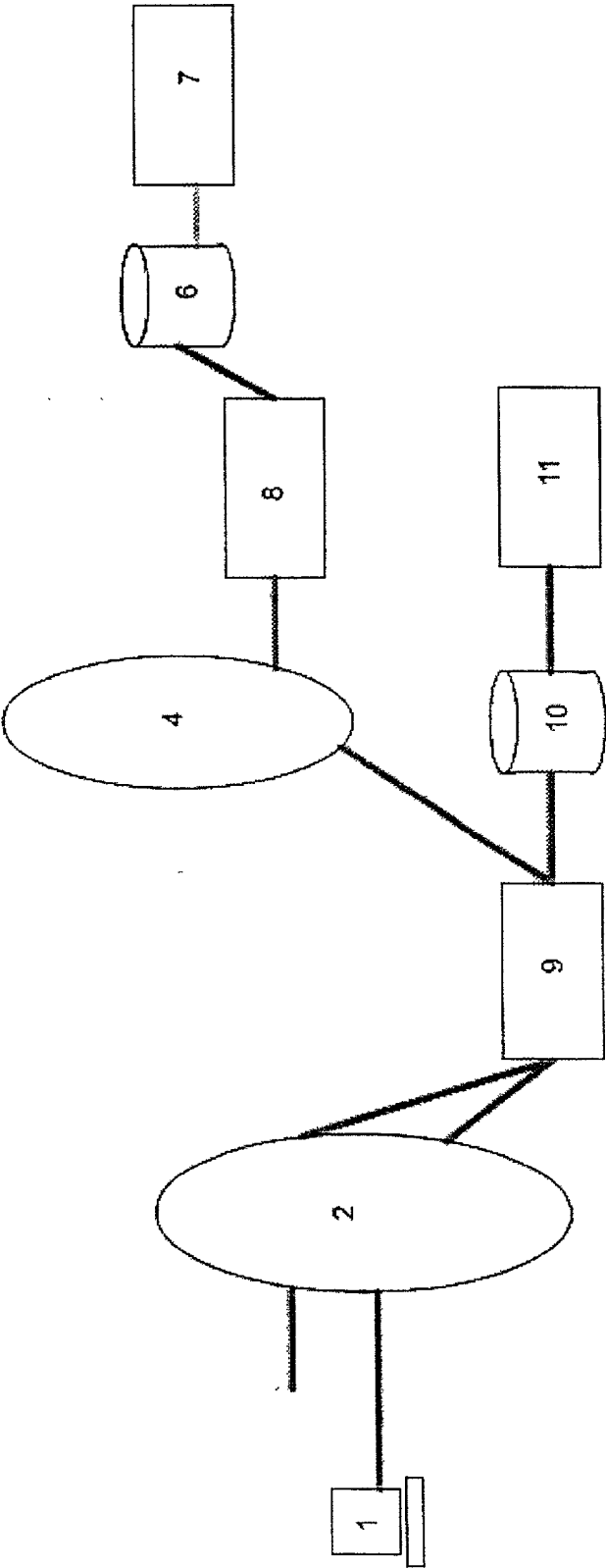
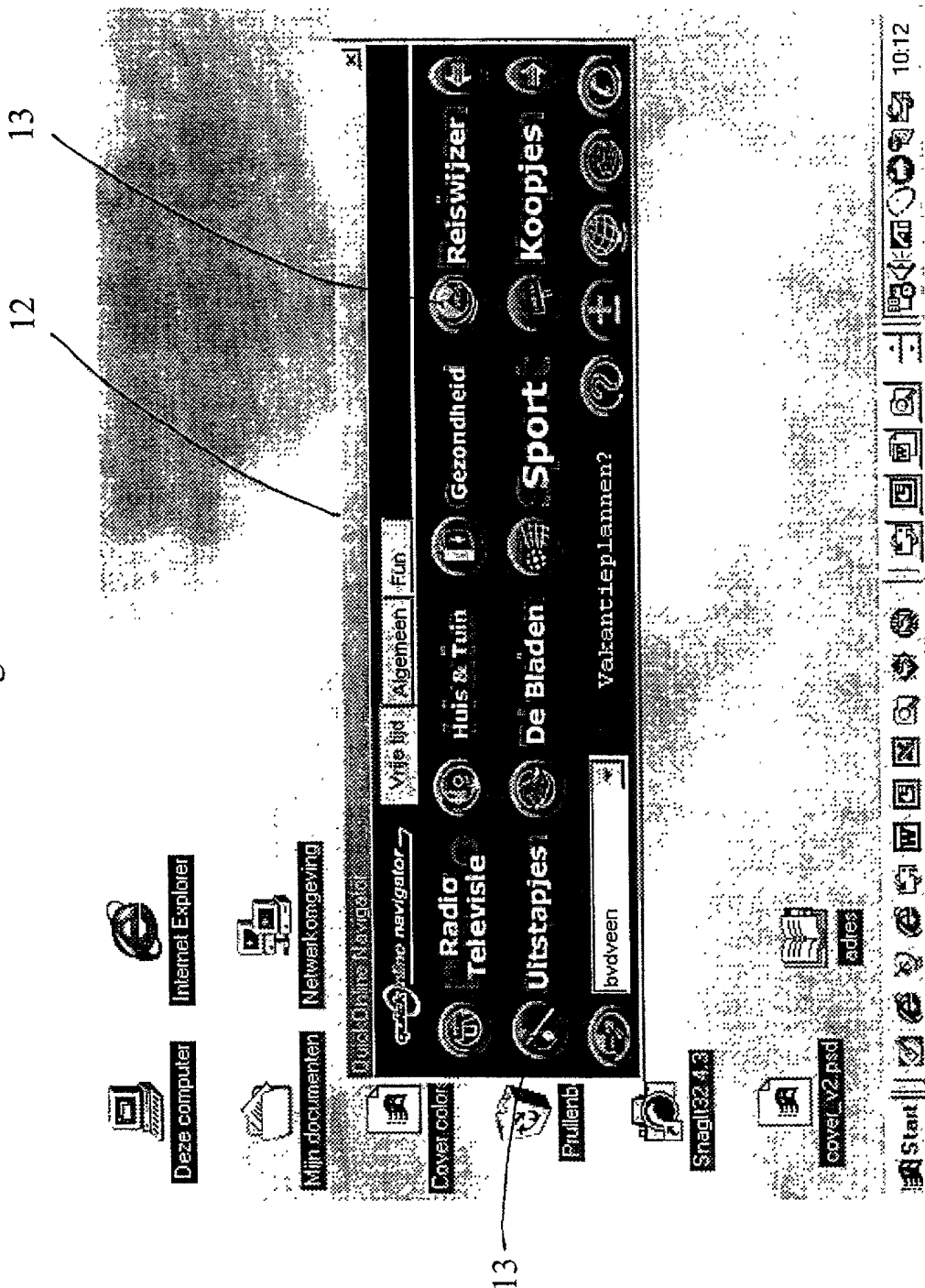


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



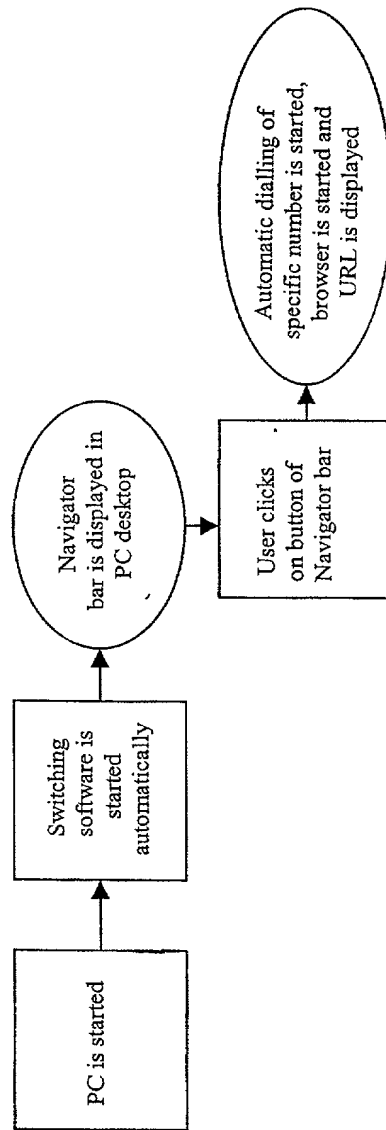


Fig. 4

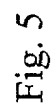


Fig. 5

DECLARATION

I declare that all statements made herein that are of my own knowledge are true and that all statements that are made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I appoint the following attorneys and agents to prosecute the patent application identified above and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including full power of association, substitution and revocation: Judson K. Champlin, Reg. No. 34,797; Joseph R. Kelly, Reg. No. 34,847; Nickolas E. Westman, Reg. No. 20,147; Steven M. Koehler, Reg. No. 36,188; David D. Brush, Reg. No. 34,557; John D. Veldhuis-Kroeze, Reg. No. 38,354; Deirdre Megley Kvale, Reg. No. 35,612; Theodore M. Magee, Reg. No. 39,758; Peter S. Dardi, Reg. No. 39,650; Christopher R. Christenson, Reg. No. 42,413; Brian D. Kaul, Reg. No. 41,885; Robert M. Angus, Reg. No. 24,383; Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844; Alan G. Rego, Reg. No. 45,956; and David C. Bohn, Reg. No. 32,015.

I ratify all prior actions taken by Westman, Champlin & Kelly, P.A. or the attorneys and agents mentioned above in connection with the prosecution of the above-mentioned patent application.

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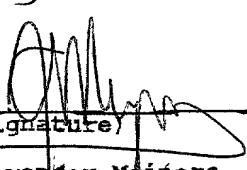
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**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING
SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN)**

Attorney Docket No.
D41.12-0001

Inventor(s): Johannes Gerardus Hendricus Terwindt et al.

Title: SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COMPUTERS

With respect to the invention described in

- ☒ the application filed herewith:
☐ application Serial No. __, filed __:
☐ Patent No. __, issued __:

I. IDENTIFICATION OF DECLARANT AND ANY RIGHTS AS A SMALL ENTITY

I am:

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN DiA Services B.V.
ADDRESS OF CONCERN Kampenringweg 9,
2803 PE Gouda
The Netherlands

The above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR § 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR § 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under 35 USC §§ 41(a) and (b).

II. OWNERSHIP OF INVENTION BY DECLARANT

Rights under contract or law remain with or have been conveyed to the above-identified concern. If the rights held are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person who could not be classified as (1) an independent inventor under 37 CFR § 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, (2) a small business concern under 37 CFR § 1.9(d) or (3) a non-profit organization under 37 CFR § 1.9(e).

- ☒ There is no such person, concern, or organization.
☐ The person, concerns or organizations are listed below:

FULL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

- ☐ Individual
☐ Small Business Concern
☐ Non-Profit Organization

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DUTY TO NOTIFY PTO OF STATUS CHANGE

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.28(b).

IV. DECLARATION

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

V. SIGNATURES

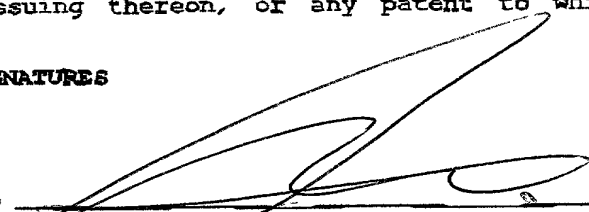
SIGNATURE

Date:

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING

TITLE OF PERSON

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING


Date: 9-10-2001
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